

## BOOK REVIEW

JONH LAIRD FARRAR, 1995. *Trees of the Northern United States and Canada*. 1995. (ISBN 0-8138-2740-X, hbk.) Iowa State University Press, 2121 South State Ave., Ames, Iowa 50014. \$39.95. 502 pp, maps, line drawings, color.

This book's format is extremely similar to the classic *Textbook of Dendrology*, by W. Harlow & E. Harrar, published in 1958. Although I found no direct reference to that work mentioned in the text, the 7th edition of Harlow and Harrar, published in 1991, is cited in the Bibliography section. The author states that this book evolved from the *Native Trees of Canada*, first published in 1917. Clearly, there are only so many ways to present multiple dendrological characteristics graphically, clearly, yet with high technical accuracy, and this, like the other aforementioned books, does just that. For each "native" species, the "preferred" English common name, latin name, French common name, its distribution, and brief descriptions of the: leaves, buds, twigs, "seed cones" (in the case of gymnosperms), or flowers and fruit (for angiosperms), seeds, vegetative reproduction, bark, wood, size and form of bole and canopy, habitat and notes. The distribution map, habit profile, twig profile, leaf profile, and fruit drawing are on a page facing color photos of the cones or flowers, fruits, seeds, young bark, and old bark, for most species. The entire work is divided into 12 groups, the first six of which are gymnosperms (needle and scale characters) and the second of which are angiosperms, separated by leaf morphology. While I believe the section entitled, "Tree names" contains several important conceptual errors, they do not comprise any meaningful pitfall. I would have also liked an explanation for determination of "native" species. In summary, it is one of those guides that every professional conservationist, forester and botanist should have, along with anyone who enjoys hiking, camping, nature walks, and other outdoor activities in the geographic area covered. The price is more than reasonable for such an absolutely practical work, that is easy to use, richly illustrated on acid-free paper, and with an extra-heavy-duty binding. I am not sure how the book would withstand a rainstorm or two, but I am anxious to find out, as should everyone.—*John Pipoly III*